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**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**
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# Draft report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/82, the Subcommittee, at its 835th meeting, on 15 February, reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space under the chairmanship of Sam A. Harbison (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

2. The Working Group recalled the objectives of its multi-year workplan for the period 2010-2015, adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session, in 2010 (A/AC.105/958, annex II, para. 7) and extended to 2017 by the Subcommittee at its fifty-first session, in 2014 (A/AC.105/1065, annex II, para. 9):

(a) To promote and facilitate the implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space by providing information pertinent to challenges faced by member States and international intergovernmental organizations, in particular those considering or initiating involvement in applications of nuclear power sources (NPS) in outer space;

(b) To identify any technical topics for, and establish the objectives, scope and attributes of, any potential additional work by the Working Group to further enhance safety in the development and use of space NPS applications. Any such additional work would require the approval of the Subcommittee and would be developed with due consideration for relevant principles and treaties.

3. The Working Group noted the following:

(a) Draft report containing recommendations for potential future work to promote and facilitate implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, prepared by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.1/L.349);

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(b) Draft report on the implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space and general recommendations for potential future work, prepared by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.1/L.349/Rev.1);

(c) A conference room paper submitted by the United Kingdom entitled "Possible General Safety Recommendations to implement the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space" (A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.6);

(d) A conference room paper submitted by France entitled "Proposal to revise the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992" (A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.7);

(e) A conference room paper submitted by China entitled "Safety Practices of Space Nuclear Power Sources in China" (A/AC.105/C.1/2016/CRP.12).

4. The Working Group, at its informal meetings, had further discussion of the conference room papers referred to in paragraph 3 (c)-(e) above.

5. The Working Group revised its draft report to the Subcommittee, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.349. The revised draft was considered by the Working Group in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.349/Rev.1.

6. After consideration of the results from the current workplan, the Working Group reached consensus on the following provisional recommendations, pending further considerations by the Working Group during its intersessional work in 2016:

(a) The Subcommittee should continue to encourage and provide opportunities for:

(i) States members of the Committee and intergovernmental organizations involved in space NPS mission applications, or planning or considering such involvement, to report on their progress in implementing the Safety Framework and to identify challenges and experiences relevant to implementing the Safety Framework;

(ii) States members of the Committee and intergovernmental organizations with experience in space NPS to share information relevant to addressing those challenges;

(iii) Presentations by States members of the Committee with experience in space NPS applications on their mission-specific experiences in implementing the guidance contained in the Safety Framework and in satisfying the intent of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;

(b) The Subcommittee could provide the opportunity for States members of the Committee and intergovernmental organizations to engage in an exploratory discussion within the Working Group about advances in knowledge and practices, and their potential for enhancing the technical content and scope of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

7. The Working Group agreed that intersessional work would be required in order to successfully meet the objectives of its multi-year workplan, as well as to finalize the draft report to be presented to the Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session, in 2017. In that connection, the Working Group agreed to conduct its intersessional

work by holding teleconferences and, if necessary, an intersessional meeting on 14 and 15 June 2016, on the margins of the fifty-ninth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Working Group agreed to hold its first teleconference on 19 April 2016.

8. The Working Group took note of the web page maintained by the Secretariat containing, in the six official languages of the United Nations, the technical papers and presentations that had been provided to the Working Group since the Safety Framework was adopted by the Committee (see www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/copuos/working-groups/stsc/nps/index.html).

9. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February 2016, the Working Group adopted the present report.